

Legislative Testimony  
HB5452 AAC The Provision Of Volunteer Health Care Services On A Temporary Basis  
Public Health Committee  
Friday, March 12, 2010  
John J. Hillgen, IV, D.M.D.

Senator Harris, Representative Ritter, and the members of the Public Health Committee, my name is John Hillgen. I am a practicing Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon in Waterbury. I am also on the Board of Governors for the Connecticut State Dental Association. Please accept this as my testimony urging your support of HB5452 AAC The Provision Of Volunteer Health Care Services On A Temporary Basis.

Today and tomorrow because of the Connecticut Mission of Mercy ("CT-MOM") approximately 2,000 citizens of this state will receive free dental care from more than 1,600 volunteers. Many of these volunteers are licensed professionals in this state. There are, however, many other healthcare providers who would have likewise provided care to our citizens but are unable because their license is not from this state.

Recent events in Haiti and Chile show the importance of volunteer healthcare providers in times of need. The present financial crisis in the state has created a greater need for charitable events from volunteer healthcare providers. This bill is important because, if passed, it would allow non-Connecticut healthcare providers to participate in programs such as CT-MOM. The outcome would benefit citizens of this state.

In closing I would like to thank the Committee for allowing me to testify. I am also happy to make myself available, now or at any other time, should you have questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

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